

Disorders in Children. 1961. Ed. G. Caplan). To achieve the implementation of such principles, popular education, enlightenment and co-operation are indispensable. In furtherance of those means, Dr. Ashley Montagu has performed a notable service in writing this book. One must wish that it could become obligatory reading for every potential mother—and husband. The reviewer has but one fault to find. Nowhere is there given here details of the twenty-seven other books written by Dr. Montagu, many of which are important and worthy of study; this applies particularly to his *Direction of Human Development* which is of major significance concerning ways and means of raising not only the biological, but the moral potential of man.

HERBERT BREWER

MENTAL HEALTH

Hare, E. H. and Shaw, G. K. *Mental Health on a New Housing Estate*. Institute of Psychiatry; Maudsley Monographs 12. London, 1965. Oxford University Press. Pp. ix+135. Price 38s.

THE AUTHORS OF this monograph, both psychiatrists attached to the Maudsley Hospital, have made a study of the comparative health of two districts in Croydon. One of these is a new housing estate of mostly council houses built between 1948–1960 in an elevated position on the town's periphery, the other is a densely populated area in the heart of Croydon, where most of the houses were built before the First World War and are of low rateable value.

Members of a 10 per cent sample of households in the two populations were visited by doctors with psychiatric experience and eight other trained interviewers. The information sought from them and other sources was extensive. It covered general health, physical disturbances, and state of mental health, estimated from the amount of neurotic illness, single nervous symptoms and disturbances interfering with recent activities or leading to a visit to the doctor. The social attitudes of the members of the two populations were also recorded. General practitioners were approached to ascertain the extent and diagnosis of conditions about which the respondents had

consulted them. The in-patient and out-patient records of local hospitals and the records of psychiatric hospitals were investigated. Data were collected about the mental and physical health of the children in the families studied.

Checks and cross references showed that the morbidity rates were reliable; and that interviewer bias had affected the observations only where subjective judgement of personality and psychiatric manifestations had been called for.

The main findings did not demonstrate any important differences between the mental health of the population of the new housing estate and that of the older area; there was, however, in both, a significant association between mental ill-health and poor physical health. This negative finding is important. Earlier investigators, Martin, Brotherston and Chave, who had found the rates of mental illness on a new housing estate to be above the national average, concluded that this was in part due to the unsatisfactory social conditions peculiar to a new estate, in contrast to well-settled areas. The inquiry by Shaw and Hare lends no support to this explanation.

HILDA LEWIS

SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR

Ellis, Albert and Abarbanel, Albert (Editors). *The Encyclopaedia of Sexual Behaviour*. 2 Vols. New York, 1961. Hawthorn Books. (London, Corsano). Pp. i+574; viii+575–1059. Price 119s. 6d.

THE EDITORS STATE in the preface that this encyclopaedia took over three years to compile and claim that it is the first of its type ever published. Their claim is a legitimate one and the method of presentation practical and convenient.

Instead of having a great number of comparatively small paragraphs on many subjects it was decided to concentrate on about 200 major topics, each one covered by authoritative writers in scientific, professional, literary or artistic fields.

No claim is made that the subject is fully covered—to do this could have extended the work to ten or twenty volumes.

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

The original plan was to produce the publication in three parts:

1. the series of authoritative articles;
2. a biographical dictionary of sexologists and of writers on subjects cognate with sex;
3. a comprehensive dictionary of sexual terms.

In the event the final form of the book is a series of monographs fully expounded by individual writers and without any addenda by the editors. The latter are, however, assembling a separate volume to cover the second two parts referred to above.

The work is well annotated as it is preceded by an analytical guide to contents under various main headings, and a very full index is added. (It is pleasant to note that the editors have given credit—by name—to the compiler of the index, Edward Allen). In addition there is an excellent list of references at the end of each article.

There have been books in the past that have by their titles claimed to treat the subject comprehensively, but with fairness this book can be endorsed as the first to have the true encyclopaedic approach. The attitude is an objective one and differing (even opposing) points of view are clearly expressed. For example, on the subject "chastity and virginity" the case *against* is forcibly stated by René Guyon and the case *for* equally cogently by David Mace.

The list of contributors is indeed a formidable one and although there is naturally a transatlantic weighting many of the contributors are

or were Fellows and Members of the Eugenics Society, or closely associated with it: Alec Craig writes in his delightfully reasoned way on the censorship of sexual literature; Robert C. Cook, a highly concentrated article of eugenics; Cyril Bibby writes on the art of loving; Abraham Stone treats of planned parenthood around the world; Victor H. Wallace deals with sex life in Australia and New Zealand.

A particularly interesting article by Dr. Boas on sex life in Europe contains a chronological list of outstanding dates in the development of the subject in Europe and adds some most interesting tables showing differences in customs and legal attitudes between the countries; under the heading "Grounds for Divorce", there are three countries (Italy, Ireland and Portugal) that show no grounds for divorce, and an unexpectedly high number (nine) which include 'mutual consent'. The USSR is shown as having two grounds only, "mutual consent" and "desire of one party".

Another completely different article on the language of sex by Duncan MacDougald Jr. helps the reader to appreciate still more the uproarious tête-à-tête supper in the recent film of "Tom Jones" and the symbolical game in Pinter's "The Tea Party".

The foregoing gives a general idea of the scope of the book which can be recommended as an essential book of reference unlikely to be supplanted for many years. It is a pity that in such a well-presented and well printed book the binding should be so flimsy and the covers so weak.

D. ROBERTSON-RITCHIE